



Daniel's Den



Together Everyone Achieves More

Annual Report

1st September 2016 – 31st August 2017



Registered charity number 1147172 Company Limited by Guarantee 5303714

www.danielsden.org.uk



CONTENTS

Letter from the Director	Page 4
Review of 2016-2017	Page 4-14
Our impact	Page 15
Fundraising review	Page 17
Financial review	Page 18
Special thanks	Page 19

OUR MISSION

Our purpose is to encourage and enrich family life in order to build stronger communities

We have a vision to see

- Parents and children having the opportunity to ‘know and be known’ in their local community
- People building ‘relationships that matter’ within and beyond their cultural/ethnic group



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Message from the Director

'Causing ripples' has been the overriding theme for Daniel's Den during this year. Whilst our sessions last between one and half hours and two and in themselves provide an oasis in which adults and children alike can make new friends, play and learn together; the impact of what we do has a far wider reach. Watching people exchange phone numbers, pick up information leaflets or simply say 'That's so simple—I'm going to try this at home' - you sense that fun is going to continue after the session. As we celebrated our 20th anniversary and heard people's memories of their time spent at Daniel's Den, it gave us the opportunity to take stock of the impact we have had, and to continue to have, in the lives of thousands of families in Brent and beyond. We hope in the coming year to put together our Impact Report which will be a measure of this.

One of the highlights for me was the day a little boy talked for the very first time. His anxious parents brought him, along with his little sister, and the dad explained how their son had been in nursery for months but had never spoken a word. Not to anyone. At home he chatted but this 'selective mutism' was causing an issue at school. The whole family looked so nervous but the rest of the group welcomed them. No expectations made but a genuine warm welcome. In the second session, the little boy whispered 'thank you' to one of our volunteers as she gave him some fruit. That small act of kindness released something in this boy and within a couple of weeks he was talking not only at Daniel's Den but also in school. His mum had tears rolling down her face as she told us those were the first words her 4 year son had spoken outside the home/family context.



Another mum came with her son, so worried he wasn't walking. We talked at length about different stages of development and as she relaxed ,she asked if she could call her husband. He came and we offered the same reassurance to him. You could literally see a burden lift off these parents and they took a step back. As they did this, the little one took a couple of steps forward and the next week he literally came in running! Offering a welcoming space where parents/carers and children can feel safe and ask questions/ share concerns is so important.

We enjoy creating ripples—ripples of love and joy. But also ripples of a voice for the vital role parent and toddler groups play in our communities and family life of this nation.

Truly—Together Everyone Achieves More!

REVIEW

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS

We ran 5 toddler sessions each week throughout Brent and also a weekly session in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, bringing a sense of care and belonging to many families. Having a safe warm place to bring your children means so much to local families and its great to see the babies/toddlers coming with mum, dad, grandparents, aunts/uncles, child minders or au pairs. The range of toys and activities creates a rich learning environment where new friendships are formed and people developing a real sense of belonging.

These are the sessions we ran each week.

- **Monday 9am-10.30am @ Blackburn Youth Club, Rotherham**
- **Tuesday 9am-10.30am @ Elsley Primary School (moved to Park Lane Methodist Church in Wembley from Jan 2017)**
- **Tuesday 9.30am-11.30am @ St Michael and All Angels, Stonebridge**
- **Tuesday 1.30pm-3pm @ Gladstone Park Primary School**
- **Wednesday 9.30am-11.30am @ St Andrews, Sudbury**
- **Friday 9.30am-11am @Yellow Pavilion**

We were thrilled to open a new group at the Yellow Pavilion in Wembley Park. It is good to be the next door neighbours of the iconic Wembley Stadium again, albeit on a different side of the stadium! With all the new developments taking place in Wembley Park we are delighted to be able to provide an opportunity for people to make new friends and develop a sense of belonging.



In January we had to move our venue from Elsley Primary School due to the extensive building work taking place there. We found a new home in Park Lane Methodist Church in Wembley.

Running excellent sessions where everyone feels they belong — providing the opportunity to play and learn together - is our aim. Giving people the opportunity to give and receive support and encouragement builds community and has a much wider impact than the one and half/two hours!

TEAM—Together Everyone Achieves More

There has been such a sense of unity across all our teams this year.

Having a part time administrator is proving to be such an asset and our new database is helping us keep up to date records and monitor each session.

We have recruited several new volunteers with our new session at the Yellow Pavilion and the fact that the team of four there come from Poland, Jamaica, India and England. We truly live out the multicultural nature of our work. Everyone has something to give and something to receive and whether it's craft ideas, photography or making a cake —people get the opportunity to share and be part of a community. It is always a mixed blessing when our volunteers go on to get employment as a result of their experiences at Daniel's Den. Meridjana came for many years as a mum—then volunteer and now she has a job in a local school.



We would love to recruit more volunteers and respond to the various requests we get to start new groups. Hopefully this will be something we can do in 2017-2018

Emma

We were all saddened to hear the news that one of our volunteers— Emma—had cancer. The way in which people supported her and formed the Emma Hay Sunshine Fund was amazing. In fact, the very core of Daniel's Den was at work and was a living testimony to what we do. Emma had made so many connections through Daniel's Den and this was evidenced by the massive wave of support. Again, the ripples were felt in many areas and were a testimony to the vital role we play in the local community.



CREATIVITY & SENSORY PLAY

This has been a major feature of the year as people have shared ideas ...



Fun and laughter are hallmarks of Daniel's Den ... ripples



“My daughter absolutely loves Daniel's Den. She can play freely, choose to play with other children or choose the activity that she can play on her own.”

Smiles from everyone, staff & parents.

OUR 20TH YEAR

We not only celebrated with cake in all our groups but each group received a Good News Rainbow Rug thanks to Joy and John, 2 amazing supporters in Australia!



VISITORS

We welcomed many visitors during the year including:

Diabetes UK, Mahdi from Brent CFIS, various speech therapists promoting the Gimme 5 campaign, Sharon from dental health plus newly qualified dentists as part of Health Education England's 'Now you have teeth' project



VISITS

Our Director was invited to lots of places to share about Daniel's Den including the churches of Harlesden and Stonebridge ...



TRIP

We were delighted to take a coach and minibus full of families to Bournemouth. The weather was perfect and a wonderful time was had by all!



CELEBRATING

We love to celebrate Christmas and do this by having Nativity plays in each of our session plus a Christmas party. These pictures speak of the joy experienced ...



GREAT GET TOGETHER

We were absolutely thrilled to organise a picnic in King Edwards Park as part of the Great Get Together. 5000 leaflets were printed by Daniels Estate Agents and delivered by local volunteers.



© sindhu.raposo

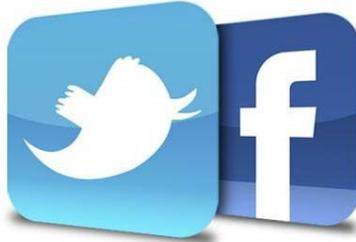


© sindhu.raposo

SOCIAL MEDIA

@DanielsDenUK

DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore



With an informative face book page and daily tweets, we endeavour to keep people informed about what's going on ... why not follow us?

THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE SAY....

Thank you for sharing your feedback re what you like about DD and what you would like to see taking place.

Things you like, include:

Lots of space for children to run around & different types of activities to develop creativity & imagination for different personalities.
Lovely music.

The information gained from organisers. Being able to meet people in a friendly environment.

Activities, closeness to me and staff are fantastic.

Friendly and welcoming.
Chance to meet other mums and have tea with both

Friendly, convenient



Things you would like to see improved or included:

We would like to have a session on more than one day!

Have somewhere for kids to wash their hands (although you do provide wipes,

Small soft play area

Some new equipment.
Home corner. Parachute.

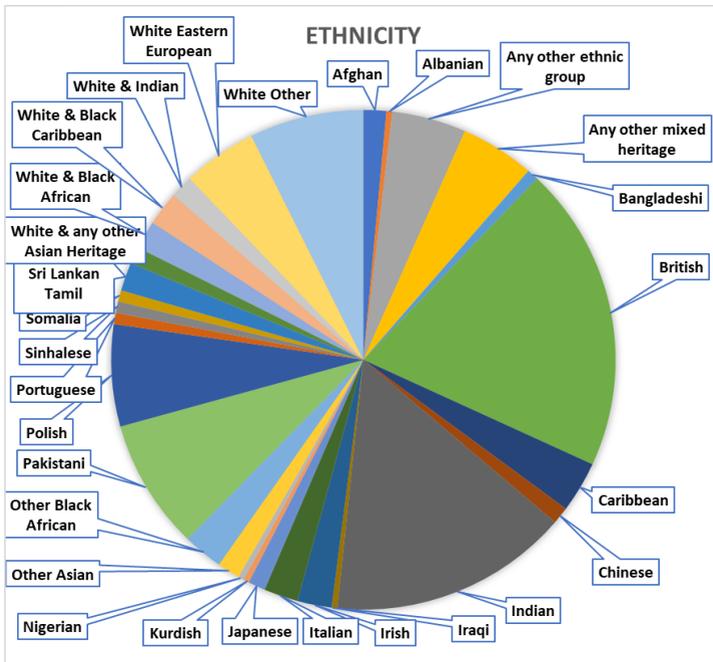
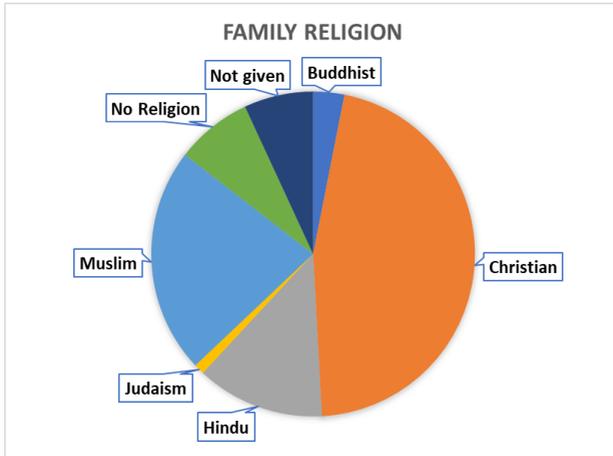
Biscuits please :-)

When are you moving back to Elsley?



OUR IMPACT

WE WORKED WITH 289 FAMILIES



OUTCOMES

There are many outcomes from our sessions which will never be known for example: new friendship groups leading to reduced isolation, space for children to run around and develop gross motor skills in ways not possible in cramped living conditions. However, we know this year that:

- ◆ Parenting Postcards were given out to families who attended and a number of parents said bedtime was improving for their families
- ◆ Over 75% said they had made at least 2 new friends as a result of coming to our sessions and some said they'd made 'many many many'
- ◆ One family living in a women's refuge received 2 bags of clothes and this enabled the mum and children to feel so much happier
- ◆ One 4 year old spoke outside the home for the very first time

NEXT YEAR 2017-2018

We hope to raise funds to buy a new computer for the office and also have tablets for each of our session in order to improve our reporting. We hope to update our Volunteer Programme and recruit and train new volunteers so we can open more sessions and reach more families. Funding is a major issue and we hope to be more energetic in our fundraising. We hope to plan more activities for the Friends of Daniel's Den e.g. a community festival, cake sales etc

We want to invite more visitors to our groups so they can also help spread the message that parent and toddler groups are a life line to the community.



FUNDRAISING

We could not do what we do without the generosity of others. We have a small group of regular givers and others who make one off donations. We are hoping to have a fundraising team who will have a calendar of events and activities!

ACTIVITIES

Several people took part in collecting 20ps in tubes of Smarties



We had a number of cake stalls



GRANTS

We were successful in receiving funding from Wembley Futures, Quintain, Porters Trust

PLATES

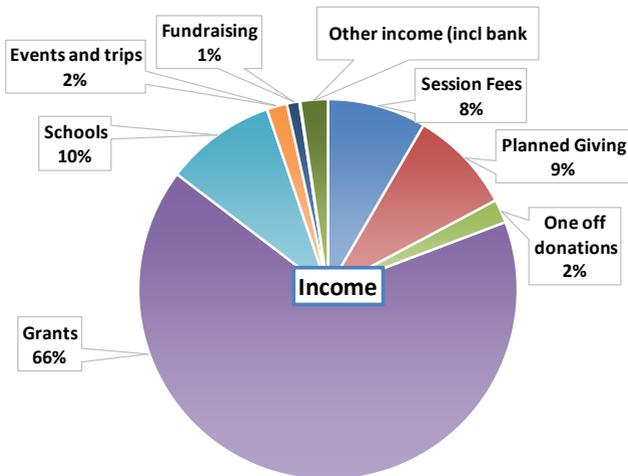
The hand-painted plates continue to be as popular as ever—not only raising funds but also creating memories



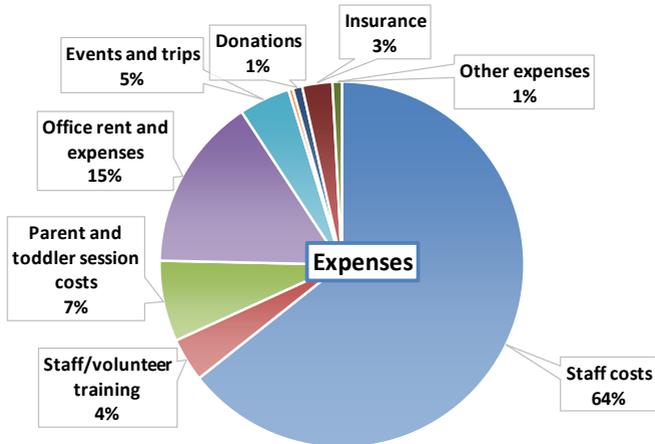
'We are always looking for fundraisers and volunteers to join our team and welcome any fundraising ideas in the year ahead.'

FINANCE REPORT

Over the year we raised £31,972, a record amount for Daniel's Den of which over £21,000 was from grants.



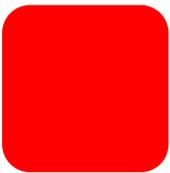
Payments and expenditure were increased from last year and in total £28,620 was spent. This chart shows how the money was spent during the year.



SPECIAL THANKS

GO TO...

Volunteers who give their time
Hosts of our sessions
People who pray regularly for our work
Anonymous donors and regular givers
Our grant funders



Like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/
DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore](http://www.facebook.com/DanielsDenTogetherEveryoneAchievesMore)

Follow us on twitter:

[@DanielsDenUK](https://twitter.com/DanielsDenUK)

Visit our website:

www.danielsden.org.uk

Email us:

info@danielsden.org.uk

Phone:

02089086986

Address:

Daniel's Den Office, c/o St Andrews Church,
956 Harrow Road, Sudbury HA0 2QA

Director:

Jo Gordon

Trustees:

Keith Brown, Ronald Herbert, Phello Ekango,
Peter Kearney, Caroline Winterburn
and Jo Gordon

Registered UK charity number:

1147172

Company Limited by Guarantee:

5303714

Registered Office address:

38 Berkhamsted Avenue, Wembley,
Middlesex HA9 6DT





www.danielsden.org.uk

